

Serial No. 10/725,011
Reply to Office Action of June 27, 2005

Docket No. P-0618

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing includes changes to Fig. 2. This sheet, which includes Fig. 2, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 2. In Figure 2, a typographical error is corrected. No new matter is added.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet (1)
 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes (1)

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the drawings, Abstract, specification and claims 1-20 are amended, and new claims 22-27 are added. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 4-6 and 13-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 4 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 22 and 25. Accordingly, claims 22 and 25 should be in condition for allowance, along with claims 22-24 and 26-27, which depend respectively therefrom.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 7-11 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,802,369 to Zentner et al.; rejected claims 1-3, 8-11, 16, and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 4,732,009 to Frohbieter; and rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Zentner in view of JP 06265291 to Tokui et al. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the variable temperature

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storage comprises a casing installed in the refrigerator and having a rear wall and two side walls, and wherein the first local circulating path comprises a through hole formed in one of the two side walls of the casing. Independent claim 16 has been amended to recite that the variable temperature storage comprises a casing installed in the refrigerator and having a rear wall and two side walls, and wherein the first local circulating path comprises a through hole formed in one of the two side walls of the casing. Independent claim 19 has been amended to recite that the variable temperature storage comprises a casing having a rear and two side walls installed in the refrigerator and a drawer detachably inserted into the casing. None of the applied references, taken alone or in combination, disclose or suggest such respective features, or the respective claimed combinations of independent claims 1, 16, and 19. Dependent claims 2-3, 7-12, 17-18, and 20-21, along with objected to claims 4-6 and 13-15, are allowable over the applied references at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1, 16, and 19, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

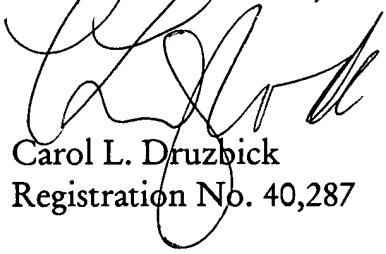
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application

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in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Carol L. Druzick, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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FIG. 2
CONVENTIONAL ART

